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Editorial

Tax limitation the best answer

California's Proposition 13 started the



Hyrum Smith, Heber City Cemetery Superintendent.

Rest in Peace thanks to Hyrum Smith

Hyrum Smith spends eight hours a day thinking about things like graves, headstones, and funerals.

The reason is, as superintendent of the Heber City Cemetery, it's Hyrum's job to make sure the local, final resting place is kept in good condition.

Some people might not think that's a fun sort of job, but Hyrum says he enjoys taking care of the 18 acres of lawn, trees, and shrubs which surround the graves.

The beautiful condition of the cemetery is a testimony to the dedication of he and his assistant.

Recently elected to be vice-president of the Utah Municipal District Cemetery Association, Hyrum has been superintendent for ten

years.

"The work keeps us rompin', you never get done," explains Hyrum, who says it takes three-days just to mow the lawn.

The hardest part of the job comes in the winter months when graves must be dug in frozen ground.

Even though the traditional grave digger's shovel has been replaced by a backhoe, it sometimes takes six-hours and a jackhammer to do the job.

Another part of the job is dealing with the public at a time in people's lives when they are understandably upset.

"People get emotional when they loose their loved ones," he notes, adding: "If you say one cross word to

YOUTH WIN HONORS AT STATE FAIR

Young people from Wasatch County were able to win many honors at the State Fair this past week. Winning blue ribbons for their 4-H exhibits were: Entomology - Troy Allison, Jared Buehler and Jill Probst. Foods - Paula Glazier, Marcia Hallows, Debbie Royall, and Vickie Broadbent. Canning - Melanie Tucker, Food Dehydration - Melanie Tucker. Child Care - Elaine Hull and Paula Glazier. Photography - Cheri Springer and Trent Springer. Wood Refinishing - Cheri Springer.

Also connected with State Fair the State 4-H Judging Contest was held in Logan. Jay Wilson of Midway placed third in the State in the Tractor driving contest, in a close and tough contest. Michelle Probst also of Midway, was a blue ribbon winner in the demonstration contest, Home Economics judging and Entomology judging. Her entomology record book will compete at the National level for one of six \$1000 scholarships.

Also attending the contests and doing extremely well were: Dale Wilson, Tractor Driving Contest; Lisa Montgomery, Jane Sweat, and Wendy Colovich in the Horse Judging Contest.

Cheri and Trent Springer's photography exhibits were selected to go on to Chicago to compete for National recognition. Cheri shot an excellent picture of a water fowl and Trent had a picture of his father, Jerry and himself back packing through the High Uintahs that impressed the judges.

them you're in trouble...you have to be nice."

Hyrum notes one of the things he has to be nice, but firm about is keeping people from planting their own trees and shrubs in the cemetery.

Pointing to a 25 foot Blue Spruce, he says one person climbed over the fence at night and planted the tree.

If everyone did that, he notes, the cemetery would become a jungle.

Hyrum sums up his job by noting: "I guess a lot of people would be scared to work in a cemetery."

But, he allows, "It's not the dead ones, but the live ones that cause problems, because they all want to do special favors for them."

LOU JACKSON

30 July 1987

"A councilman is a member of a team that has the responsibility of taking care of city business. This year the mayor has put me in charge of the cemetery and the centennial celebration," said Councilman Lou Jackson.

Working with Hyrum Smith, he is developing some governance policies that will help control the activities of the present facility. "We expect to add more developed land to the cemetery which will soon be exhausted. In the development we hope to satisfy the variety of wants the public expresses and still be able to make the service economically sound," he explained.

"The centennial year is going to give us a chance to thoroughly become acquainted with the present make-up of our city and celebrate its growth. "I have been involved with just about everything the city does. I know that we are trying as hard — if not harder today — to make this place home to all who live here — to make the heritage a tangible and a spiritual reality worthy of veneration, and to make pride our password and inspiration," he said.

To recognize some of the people who have contributed in making the passage through the cemetery, Mr. Jackson has suggested that cemetery roads be named after the sextons who have served so rigorously and faithfully to make resting places for those who so loved the valley that they requested it to be their final resting place. The council accepted the suggestion with enthusiasm.

Other things he'd like to do are: improve roadside landscaping and add a new fence that would replace the battered chain link and pasture fence that now fronts the cemetery properties. Roadside parking, controlled parking, and traffic routes, are also planned to help solve congestion at busy times. Other improvements are gates that would close the cemetery to vehicular traffic at specified times. In time, "a process for feeding lawns chemically through the sprinkling system to save time and money, should be



Heber City Councilman Lou Jackson, left, is in charge of the city cemetery. With him is Hyrum Smith, city sexton.

installed, he believes. Consideration is being given to allow the planting of trees for those who like that idea. "Many things will have to be considered, but realizing how important the final resting place is to most people, we should grant as many possibilities as we can," said Councilman Jackson.

Eight years have passed since he moved here to teach English, Spanish, and drafting in the high school. He taught 17 years in California public schools and has done a "marvelous variety" of things to achieve his teach goal and make a living for his wife and four children. All four are married and three live in Utah.

"Of all the work I've done, I've found serving on the city council as challenging and rewarding as anything. Perhaps because it is like teaching. There are worthy goals to set and reach, and when you are working for something as valid as all the citizens of a city, it is worth the effort and gives me great pleasure," he reported.

Lou has seen a lot of goals reached — wages and benefits for employees improved, new tools and equipment provided, streets and utilities updated, airport renewed, water sources

through trials and pains. We venerate all those fine people who have brought us to this day. We would behave amiss if we did not accept the challenges of this day to improve upon their foundations," he claims.

Vast experience in many states and nations as well as broad and varied work experience makes Mr. Jackson aware of people and their needs. "I hope I exemplify a balance between need and want, between intelligence and wisdom, I believe in the rights of the individual and the concern of the group. I love people and want them to be happy," he said.

"I look forward to the greatest and grandest celebration this city and valley has ever had. I look forward to a year-long celebration with an activity every month of the celebration year. The plan I'm developing is sure to include every man, woman, and child in the city and bring others to our mountain home. What greater challenge could be given me or you?" he said with enthusiasm.

After the celebration, after this and that success, after the exhilaration of self knowledge, this city," he claims, "has the right, the privilege, the responsibility to go forward and be the best city, the best place to live in the whole state — in the whole world. Why not? That's why I live here now! And that's why everyone else would like to live here," he said with pride.